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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Gang Lu and James W. O'Toole, Jr.  
Serial No.: 10/034,289  
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR HANDLING REQUESTS  
IN A NETWORK  
Filing Date: December 21, 2001  
Examiner: Korobov, Vitali A.  
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Date: November 21, 2005

By: Penny A. Coelho  
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Document, whose signature appears below)

Signature: 

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**MAIL STOP RCE**  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on August 19, 2005 and the Advisory Action dated November 9, 2005, please preliminarily amend the above-identified Application as follows: